

## **Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, October 10, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.**

Mexico City, October 10, 1832.

*My dear Sir,* The departure of the British Messenger allows me but a few minutes for a hasty letter; but a report which has just reached my ears makes it proper for me to communicate the facts upon which that report is based, in order that you may not be imposed on by misrepresentations made in the U. S. in regard to my conduct here.

The first fact is that Mr. Alaman late Secretary of State, has withdrawn from Mexico upon the approach towards the Capital by Genl. Santa Anna, from apprehension of personal danger should he be arrested by the opposite party, and the second fact is, that since his departure, my attention has been occasionally given to Mrs. Alaman, with a view to lighten her distress and revive her hopes of a speedy settlement of the present political disorders. The report however is "that I have or am to occupy Mr. Alaman's house during his absence, that the Arms of the U.S. are to be placed over the door, and that the sanction of my Official character will be given to protect Mr. Alaman's house and property from injury by the Santa Anna party when they enter Mexico and thereby commit my Governmt. by my ill judged aid afforded to an unpopular Man." There is no truth in any part of the report—whatever assistance I may be able to afford Mrs. Alaman during the absence of her husband would be rendered cheerfully, guarding carefully not to commit myself as a public agent; and that Mrs. Alaman understands perfectly.

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In order that you may understand fully the position I occupy, and how it came that I am placed there, you will receive enclosed herewith a transcript of Mr. Alaman's Note to me written just before he left the City, placed in the hands of one of my Servants after I had retired to rest, and delivered to me on the Morning after. Mr. Alaman's Note will speak for itself and is a literal transcript except in one sentence and the meaning there is exactly preserved although it was necessary to alter the form of expression.

You have long known the very intimate and friendly relations that subsisted between this Gentleman and myself, and it will not therefore surprise you to find that he committed his family to my charge on his leaving the City. The connections of both Mr. and Mrs. Alaman, are numerous, wealthy, and occupy distinguished rank in the Community, but they are all of that party who are at present going down, and were from that circumstance not only unable to afford protection to Mrs. Alaman, but might require it for themselves. I had not seen Mr. Alaman for some time before he left the City, and was completely a stranger to his intended movements untill I received his Note—he is said to be personally timid, and the success of Gen. Santa Anna in the battle at Puebla, and the occupancy of that City so near Mexico induced Mr. A. to move immediately. As soon as I recd the Note I waited on Mrs. Alaman, and found her in Tears surrounded by her Children—the appeal was irresistible. All was said to her that occurred to me as likely to cheer and encourage her. I promised my services to every extent that did not commit me as a public Agent, and felt happy to see that she had gained confidence, and become composed during the interview. I have made a daily visit to the House since Mr. Alaman's departure and shall continue to do so, believing that whilst discharging my duties as a Man, towards an unprotected, amiable and most exemplary Matron, there could be found nothing in such a course inconsistent with the relations I sustain towards this Government in my Official character, and that I should put nothing more at hazard than perhaps my own personal safety should there be amongst Mr Alamans enemies any one so infuriated as to seek

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revenge on me, and I indulge the confidence moreover that my conduct on this occasion will meet your decided Approbation. . . .